

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 568

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Cocke County High School on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly recognize those venerable educational institutions that are celebrating momentous occasions in their long and storied histories; and

WHEREAS, one such institution is Cocke County High School (CCHS), which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary on the 100th day of the school year; for 100 years, this school has offered an unmatched educational experience and fostered the growth and broadening of some of Tennessee's finest minds; and

WHEREAS, in the early part of the twentieth century, Cocke County had three high schools: Newport, Parrottsville, and Edwina. Newport offered three years of study, while Parrottsville and Edwina offered only two years; and

WHEREAS, with the need for a four-year high school, the county court passed a resolution to sell high school bonds in April 1916, and the court ratified the bond issue three months later; bonds were sold in September, contracts were signed in December, and construction began in the spring of 1917; and

WHEREAS, initially known as Central High School, CCHS opened its doors in the fall of 1917 on College Street, overlooking downtown Newport; and

WHEREAS, under the guidance of its first principal, Maston Thomas Carlisle, the first CCHS graduating class of seven included Ruby Coggins, Bessie Mae Fisher, Leonard Marsden Gardner, Estella Gillespie, Jennie Letie Jones, Bonnie Kathryn Talley, and William Burnett Stokely, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, for the last century, generations of Cocke County families have attended Cocke County High School, and on January 23, 2018, they came together to celebrate; and

WHEREAS, held in the CCHS gymnasium, the centennial celebration was emceed by Chancery Court Clerk Craig Wild with assistance from CCHS principal Gail Burchette and assistant principals Ginger Calfee Atkins and A.C. Willis; Dr. Jeff Howard, Dean of Students at East Tennessee State University, delivered the keynote address. All are CCHS alumni; and

WHEREAS, special recognition was given to past Cocke County Superintendents Beth O. Freeman and Larry Blazer, as well as former CCHS principals Joe Zavona, Gary Williams, and Dr. Marvin Stewart; Clara Reynolds, wife of late principal Jack Reynolds, and Kim Williams, wife of late principal and decorated football coach Larry Williams, were also recognized; and

WHEREAS, the celebration included an original number, "Celebrate," written and arranged by CCHS choral director Jerry Maloy; it featured current choir members, alumni choir members, and future choir members from Del Rio, Northwest, and Parrottsville Elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, large easels held photos and memorabilia from each decade of the school's history, and current students were featured in a brief fashion show wearing styles from different decades, including an original 1928 dress, a letter sweater from the 1950s, and tie-dyed shirts; and

WHEREAS, John Huskey, a member of the Class of 1938, was a special guest at the celebration; at the age of ninety-eight, he was the oldest alumni in attendance; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the centennial celebration, students presented Director of Schools Manney Moore with a check for \$100,000 to be used to renovate and upgrade the CCHS auditorium; and

WHEREAS, the administration, faculty, staff, and students of Cocke County High School have, over the past 100 years, cultivated an atmosphere of educational, athletic, and personal excellence that is second to none, and it is fitting that this body recognize this august institution on this occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Cocke County High School on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, extending our best wishes for this fine institution's continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.